

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

2. The problem of housing in the USSR is urgent because of rapid population growth and growth of urban areas. From 1946 to 1956 300 million sq. meters were built, and during the current seven-year plan 660 million sq. meters are to be built. Community facilities essential to a residential area are being built along with the housing as part of an overall plan. The goal is an apartment for each family. Development of community facilities also aims at freeing women from housework by building nurseries, kindergartens, recreation centers, and schools for the children. Residential renewal takes three forms: (a) The building of large residential blocks on unimproved land. (b) New construction on previously improved land. (c) The restoration and rehabilitation of existing facilities. There are no slums in the USSR in the sense of housing considered acceptable for the poor, the socially rejected, or the lowly. Such defective housing as continues to exist from pre-revolutionary times is being rapidly eliminated, but there is no slum problem.
3. The work of renewal is also seen as a boon to public health, and all plans for renewal must be approved by the Health Inspector. The planning takes not only the city itself, but the suburban areas into consideration, as well as roads, parks, utilities, etc. There is an overall State plan and Republic plan. Each city also has a master plan which, for small and medium cities, is in accordance with the Republic plan, and, for large and important cities, is in accordance with the State plan. In addition to the plan there are other laws and decrees concerning urban renewal. Renewal development also concerns itself with commercial and industrial areas, as well as population centers in rural areas. The State and the Republic Commissions for Construction designate the priorities for development. In some cities construction is accomplished by special construction groups called building trusts.
4. The work of Urban development is financed by the State and other public organizations. Lack of any privately owned real estate in the USSR means there are no land costs. Individuals who own buildings are reimbursed for these if they are razed, or are given financial assistance in bringing

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them up to legal standards. This money comes out of local budgets. The State also helps resettle those who are displaced by these projects, or are to move into new developments. All this development will add to the social value of the land. The workers participate in decision making, and carry out such voluntary projects as park planning. Development is planned on an overall basis, but both its nature and its speed take into account local conditions. In rapidly expanding cities the rehabilitation of old areas parallels the construction of new areas. In a few cities the rehabilitation has fallen behind the new construction, especially where the new industrial centers are far from the old part of town. In only a very few places is there rehabilitation of the old part of town without any construction of new areas. Industrial cities are developed more rapidly — than others.

5. The biggest problem in renewal today is the industrialization of the construction industry. Use of prefabrication in construction has been emphasized. By 1965 volume of prefabricated elements and reinforced concrete should reach 42-45 million cubic meters, up from 18.5 million in 1958. Parks are an important part of renewal work, and are expanding in size and number. Protective greenbelts are being built around towns exposed to strong or dry winds. Development of residential areas in the form of neighborhood centers includes:
  - (a) Construction of the residential buildings and all the establishments necessary for providing daily cultural and social service.
  - (b) Exclusion of through city traffic from the interior of the center.
  - (c) Free arrangement of buildings to insure isolation of apartments and courtyards.
  - (d) Establishment of groups of residents who are united by common public and social interests of their group.
6. Free arrangement of neighborhood centers means that buildings will not be bound by any form imposed by the layout of a street or a square. In order that these free arrangements will be perceived as well-ordered compositions, it is necessary to establish a precise order of arrangement of the buildings. Different buildings should still have a unity of style which reflects the socialist epoch. Urban renewal is defined as the orderly and constant reconstruction of all the parts and elements of the entire urban organism.

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